

JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

Page Nine

5 April 1963

THE NEWS



CPYRGHT

P.M.'S NAVON
Anger or accuracy?

the JEWISH OBSERVER really said. It is, after all, an old-established rule to make sure of your sources (and to make certain that your translator knows his job) before you comment, and before you get un-



ARMY'S AMIT
'Masters of our destiny'

necessarily not under the collar. It is as valid advice for ministerial commentators as for the press.

MEIR AMIT ON 'SECURITY CONCEPTS'

I HAVE JUST been reading one of the most lucid and straight-forward accounts of the "Factors Influencing the Security Concepts of the State of Israel". This is the title of a lecture given in Norway by General Meir Amit, Israel's Chief of Military Intelligence, and now printed (in English) by the Norwegian Military Journal. Amit draws two major conclusions from Israel's security position, one geographic and the other political. The geographic lesson for Israel's defence planners, he says, is that they can never retreat in the face of an invading enemy and hope to regain ground later; they cannot manoeuvre over large areas, and they can never retreat absolutely—except into the sea.

BF

The political problem which affects Israel's security position is her isolation. She has no defensive alignment with anyone, no firm guarantees which would automatically lead to aid in case Israel is attacked. She belongs neither to Nato, Seato nor Cento—and she also has no connections with the Warsaw Pact or the non-aligned countries. "We have no such treaties. We have no allies." Amit sees no alternative but "that we must depend only on our own strength. . . . If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" He ranges widely and in depth, and he comes back always to the same conclusion. They were all painfully aware of this in Israel, and that was their great strength. They would go on building a home for themselves where they could be "masters of our own destiny".

CPYRGHT

WHICH PLANE DO YOU PREFER ?

HOW DO TRAVELLERS decide by which line they like to fly to Israel? It is not easy to say, for there are many calculations which the more experienced take into consideration. Thus, last Sunday morning, you could leave Lydda for London within a matter of a few hours by B.O.A.C., or by El Al, or by B.E.A., or by Alitalia; which should one take for best travel comfort? In fact, I wish WHICH? would do an investigation into the respective merits of these various air lines servicing the route to Israel.

The least difference, as a rule, is in the